GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:593
ANSWERED ON:21.11.2001
CONTRACEPTIVE
SUBODH MOHITE

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `The world maps Afghanistan, Government measures our members` appearing in the `Indian Express` dated September 29, 2001;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Government have conducted any study to ascertain failure rate of contraceptive methods being used in the country;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the other measures to be adopted for strengthening family planning programme in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C.P. THAKUR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) We find that the failure rate with condom use is reported to be higher than other contraceptives. The commonly cited factors for this high failure rate are slippage and tearing of the condom. The condoms available in India meet international standards. However, they are designed in accordance with the anthropomorphic data collected from western countries, inclusive of the length and width of the condoms. The problems of slippage and tearing of condom may be because either the condom is too loose or too tight on the erect penis in Indian population. Since we do not have any anthropomorphic measurement of the erect penis on Indian men from different regions of the country, it is proposed to carry out a study for obtaining more accurate width specification for condoms is different regions.

(c) The Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) has carried out various studies to ascertain failure rate of contraceptive methods being used in the country.

(d) The failure rate of the different contraceptives as brought out by several studies carried out by Indian Council for Medical Research are 1.5% for Copper T, 0.1% for Oral Pills, and the failure rate in condoms is 10-36% as brought out by international studies.

(e) Other measures being adopted for strengthening the family planning programme in the country are:-

(i) An integrated and comprehensive programme of Reproductive and Child Health, whichincludes Maternal Health, Child Health and Contraception issues.

(ii) Propogation of family planning methods which include sterilization both for male and female, spacing methods namely IUD insertions, oral pills and condoms.

(iii) Fulfillment of unmet needs of contraceptives through provision of integrated service delivery at village level.

(iv) Information, Education and Communication Programme to create awareness about the benefits of small family.

(v) Provision of additional inputs in weaker States/Districts.